



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
September 12, 2016

Kathy Breazeale
Wally Loague
Bob McKnight

Bruce Lindgren
Bruce Lawrie
Roger Curless

Pastor John Bell

Excused:

Fred Neuman

Worship & Lighting of the Christ Candle

At the retreat the worship focus was on Luke 24:13-35, the story of the walk to Emmaus. Our worship over the next few Board meetings will continue to look at aspects of this passage. The last discussion was around how when Jesus appeared to those walking and then to the gathering of disciples he urged them not to be afraid. They were heading into new areas with high risks but Jesus tried to ally their fears.

For this time the discussion was around discovery and how difficult it was for the disciples to see Jesus – those walking with him, having a meal with him and then gathered when he appeared. The discussion was around what we, as a Governing Board, are discovering. As we do our work together we are discovering different ways to look at ministry, to look at Wesley and to find how our disciple making is progressing through the congregation. The reading that some did over the past three years and the resource people we have worked with have all opened up some avenues of thought about what we are doing as a church.

Worship closed with prayer for members of the congregation, the staff, the work of the church and the ministries currently under way.

What Can We Celebrate Since Last We Met

- **Review of the minutes from the retreat** – The minutes had been distributed and there were no changes at that time. They have been posted on the church website.
- **Reflections on the August 20 retreat** – Generally everyone felt it went well. Having the resource person from Broadway UMC in Indianapolis was very helpful and it was good to have some of the Ministry Coordinators with us. Apparently library location is good.

What do we need to accomplish in our time together today?

- **ABCD – What are the next steps for this?** – The most logical step is to make use of some of the principles as goal setting is done. It is going to take some time for the Coordinators and Pastor John to make adjustments in the existing ministries but those conversations have begun. This led to the discussion on goal setting.

- **Goal Setting Process** – Pastor John shared ideas for goal setting based on ABCD. In the presentation from Broadway UMC it was noted that there was a process of :

- **Naming** ministry opportunities by identifying resources and establishing relationships.
- **Blessing** the successes and celebrating ministries and individuals.
- **Connecting** people and resources with one another.

Some ideas for implementation in **Naming**

- Follow-up with the connection with Aurora University to have an intern that could help inventory and facilitate connecting with people in the immediate neighborhood.
- Pastor John will be listening throughout the congregation and facilitating connections.
- Work will be done to identify ways for Wesley to be the place where people come to work together using their gifts and where that work is valued. A goal could be around the times and places where people have been empowered to make use of skills and talents with others.
- One item discussed at the retreat which Pastor John will implement is making use of the church's mission statement during worship. Through the bulletin and other modes the mission statement will be lifted.

Some ideas for implementation in **Blessing**

- In order to celebrate successes there needs to be a line item in the church budget for doing that and it will be a consideration for 2017.
- At least once each month a ministry at Wesley will be blessed and celebrated whether it is just beginning, continuing and growing or coming to an end.
- At least once a month a person will be invited to share testimony during worship.

Some ideas for implementation in **Connecting**

- Quarterly the Governing Board will review with Pastor John where connections/relationships have been at least tried and hopefully accomplished.
- Risk taking needs to be encouraged. There should not be a fear of failure. The challenge is overcoming the fear of trying so risk taking will be affirmed and supported.
- New ministry starts will be part of this evaluation --- the number and the impact on the mission. A process of evaluation will be developed as new ministries emerge.

Some of the guiding principles to be used to move away from the “service providing model” where the church is doing relief work to the model where the church facilitates ministry at a higher level. To move in this direction:

- No new direct service ministries will be started
- Pastor John and the coordinators will develop guidelines for new ministries. For example the Broadway UMC model required at least three people inside the church ready to work and three people outside the church ready to work so together the ministry could be initiated.
- Existing ministries will be transformed from directly providing services to more closely follow the principles outlined in ABCD.

For now this will be the model the Governing Board supports for setting goals and moving ministry forward.

- Fall Governing Board Interviews – There are two sets of interviews to be completed:

- Existing Governing Board – All of us will meet individually to evaluate our experiences this year and indicate the desire to continue.

- New Governing Board Members – There remains spaces for new Governing Board members, particularly women.

The interviews need to be in the October/November time frame in order to be done prior to the Church Conference which has not been scheduled but will hopefully be towards the end of the year.

Pastor John will determine the communication for new slots and a process for the existing board member interviews.

- Annual Church Conference – The date has not been set but Pastor John indicated that the District Superintendent would not be holding the meeting at Wesley. From time to time presiding elders are sent rather than a superintendent because of the number of churches and conferences to be held. There was some discussion around our preference to have the superintendent because we will be reporting on the first year of single board governance. Roger will contact the superintendent and ask that he be present for Wesley's conference. *(Note since the meeting that contact has been made and the superintendent will be presiding.)*

The Governing Board will need to make a report on this past year. Roger will work with Pastor John on an outline that the Governing Board can use in its presentation.

Our Administrative Areas

- Finance

- Quarterly Statements – The third quarter statements of giving went out to the congregation. The accompanying letter was well done. The statements will need to not only include the quarterly giving but an indication of what has been pledged and what has been given year to date. Statements and all our financial reporting continues to be a work in process.

- 2017 Apportionments – The 2017 apportionment statement from the Annual Conference has been received and the apportionments increased to \$57,012. With higher budgets in the past few years the five year average is being pushed higher resulting in apportionment increases. The numbers used seem high. Roger will check on the reporting to the Annual Conference and if needed contact the superintendent.

- Trustees

- Endowment Committee – Ed Skaggs and Vicki Martin have agreed to serve on the Endowment Committee. There are additional openings to be filled.

- Endowment Policy – There were some changes made to the policy after discussions with the financial funds manager. While it had been suggested that the changes were more editorial there are some changes that need to be reviewed. Pastor John will review these with Wally and Bruce Lindgren. The final version will be set for adoption at the church conference.

- Chapel – The recently discovered water damage in the chapel is still under investigation as to the source of the water.

- Safe Sanctuaries Policy – Revisions regarding internet security and social media are still being written.

- Staff-Parish

- Administrative Coordinator – The search continues. Pastor John is conducting preliminary interviews.

What challenges, obstacles, risks are we facing? What or who at Wesley needs our prayers?

- We are in need of a secretary for the Governing Board.
- The list from the Tuesday prayer time is being shared with a prayer group that will be meeting during the week.

Bob McKnight closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting – October 17, 2016 – 2:00 PM